

- F<sup>1</sup>
- CONT.
- (b) a protein sequence according to (a) which differs for SEQ ID NO: 1 due to the origin of the protein from other vertebrates but has essentially the same cartilage and/or bone inducing activity as (a),
- (c) a protein according to (a) or (b) which is a homodimer, and
- (d) a protein according to (c) and a dimer of another protein of the TGF- $\beta$  superfamily.
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### REMARKS

Claims 17-29 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 29 is amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter is added.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues.